GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:774
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
LIFTING OF FOODGRAINS
Singh Deo Smt. Sangeeta Kumari;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States have failed to lift their quota of foodgrains timely for distribution among the Below Poverty Line population through the Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government held consultations with the States for making PDS strong and effective for distribution of foodgrains to Below Poverty Line population; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): A statement showing State-wise allocation and offtake of foodgrains (Rice & Wheat) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families during the year 2004-2005 is enclosed.

(c) & (d): For strengthening the Targeted Public Distribution System, a Conference of all the State Food Secretaries was held on 17/09/2004 followed by a Conference of State Food Ministers on 28/10/2004. As per the recommendations of these Conferences all the State Governments/UT Administrations have been instructed, amongst other things, to ensure that all families at the risk of hunger including migrant labour/displaced persons/homeless population are issued ration entitlement authority slips; priority is given to Cooperatives of women and Ex-servicemen in the matter of allotting Fair Price Shop licenses, priority is given in the allotment of Fair Price Shops to the legal heirs of a Fair Price Licensee, publicizing the information about the scale of issue, the price of foodgrains, availability, decentralized procurement of foodgrains etc., so as to make the PDS cost effective as well as to cater to local taste.